

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/680,640

Examiner

Robert P. Swiatek

Applicant(s)

RODGERS, WILLIAM E.

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to claims filed 7 October 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-57.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 10-7-03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Robert P. Swiatek
Robert P. Swiatek
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3643

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims in this application have been allowed because the prior art does not disclose a cavesson (and method of making a cavesson) including a noseband constructed of elasticized, resilient material; a jaw strap attached to the noseband to form a circular segment; and a headstall connected to the circular segment, wherein the resilience of the noseband permits movement of the horse's mouth or jaws while simultaneously exerting progressive and constant pressure in response to movement of the horse's mouth or jaws. A cavesson including a noseband constructed of two layers of a resilient material; a jaw strap having first and second split ends, with a first end of the noseband inserted into the first split end of the jaw strap and a second end of the noseband inserted into the second split end to form a circular segment for fitting around the bridge of a horse's nose; a headstall; and first and second adjustment mechanisms located within the jaw strap and headstall, respectively, also was not disclosed in the prior art. Cited patents disclose adjustable headstalls composed of leather straps; one prior art patent depicts a bridle attachment in the form of an elastic strap that partially encircles the nose of the animal above its mouth, but does not limit movement of the mouth or jaws.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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The cited references provide examples of the best-available prior art.

RPS: J703/308-2700
9 April 2004

Robert P. Swiatek
ROBERT P. SWIATEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT ~~328~~ 3643